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## History

The word Buginese derives from the word *Bahasa Bugis* in Malay. In Buginese, it is called *Basa Ugi* while the Bugis people are called *To Ugi*. According to a Buginese myth, the term *Ugi* is derived from the name to the first king of Cina, an ancient Bugis kingdom, *La Sattumpugi*. *To Ugi* basically means "the followers of La Sattumpugi".<sup>[3]</sup>

Little is known about the early history of this language due to the lack of written records. The earliest written record of this language is Sureq Galigo, the epic creation myth of the Bugis people.

Buginese	
<i>Basa Ugi / ᨀᩮ᩠ᨦ ᨆᩣᩴᨔᩢᨗ</i>	
<b>Region</b>	South Sulawesi; enclaves elsewhere in Sulawesi, Borneo, Sumatra, Maluku, Papua in Indonesia
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Bugis people
<b>Native speakers</b>	4 million (including 500,000 L2 speakers) (2015 UNSD) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>South Sulawesi<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bugis languages<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Buginese</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Writing system</b>	Lontara, Latin
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-2</b>	bug ( <a href="https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=67">https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=67</a> )
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	bug
<b>Glottolog</b>	bugi1244 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/bugi1244">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/bugi1244</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

Another written source of Buginese is Lontara, a term which refers to the traditional script and historical record as well. The earliest historical record of Lontara dates to around the 17th century. Lontara records have been described by historians of Indonesia as "sober" and "factual" when compared to their counterparts from other regions of Maritime Southeast Asia, such as the babad of Java. These records are usually written in a matter-of-fact tone with very few mythical elements, and the writers would usually put disclaimers before stating something that they cannot verify.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup>

Prior to the Dutch arrival in the 18th century, a missionary, B.F. Matthews, translated the Bible into Buginese, which made him the first European to acquire knowledge of the language. He was also one of the first Europeans to master Makassarese. The dictionaries and grammar books compiled by him, and the literature and folklore texts he published, remain basic sources of information about both languages.

Upon colonization by the Dutch, a number of Bugis fled from their home area of South Sulawesi seeking a better life. This led to the existence of small groups of Buginese speakers throughout Maritime Southeast Asia.

## Classification

Buginese belongs to South Sulawesi subgroup of the Austronesian language family. Within the South Sulawesi subgroup, it is most closely related to Campalagian.

## Geographical distribution

Most of the native speakers (around 3 million) are concentrated in South Sulawesi, Indonesia but there are small groups of Buginese speakers in the island of Java, Samarinda and east Sumatra of Indonesia, east Sabah and Malay Peninsula, Malaysia and South Philippines. This Bugis diaspora are the result of migration since 17th centuries that was mainly driven by continuous warfare situations. (The Dutch direct colonization started in early 20th century.)

## Phonology

Buginese has six vowels: a, e, i, o, u, and the central vowel ə.

The following table gives the consonant phonemes of Buginese together with their representation in Lontara script.



The distribution of Bugis and Campalagian speakers throughout Sulawesi

## Consonants

		<u>Labial</u>		<u>Dental</u>		<u>Palatal</u>		<u>Velar</u>		<u>Glottal</u>	
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>voiced</u>	[m]	↵	[n]	↶	[ɲ]	↷	[ŋ]	↘		
<u>Prenasalized cluster</u>		[mp]	↷	[nr]	↶	[ɲc]	↷	[ŋk]	↶		
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>voiced</u>	[b]	↶	[d]	↵	[t]	↷	[g]	↶		
	<u>voiceless</u>	[p]	↷	[t]	↶	[c]	↶	[k]	↘	[ʔ]	*
<u>Fricative</u>				[s]	◊					[h]	∞
<u>Rhotic</u>				[r]	↶						
<u>Approximant</u>		[w]	↷	[l]	↷	[j]	↷				

\* /ʔ/ only occurs finally, and is therefore not written in Lontara.

When Buginese is written in Latin script, general Indonesian spelling conventions are applied: [ɲ] is represented by "ny", [ŋ] by "ng", [t] by "j", [j] by "y". The glottal stop [ʔ] is usually represented by an apostrophe (e.g. *ana'* [anaʔ] "child"), but occasionally "q" is also used. /e/ and /ə/ are usually uniformly spelled as "e", but /e/ is often written as "é" to avoid disambiguity.

## Grammar

### Pronouns

Buginese has four sets of personal pronouns, one free set, and three bound sets:<sup>[7]</sup>

	<b>independent</b>	<b>enclitic</b>	<b>prefixed</b>	<b>suffixed</b>
<b>1st person singular</b>	<i>ia'</i>	<i>-a'/'-ka'/'-wa'</i>	<i>(k)u-</i>	<i>-(k)ku'</i>
<b>2nd person familiar</b>	<i>iko</i>	<i>-o/'-ko</i>	<i>mu-</i>	<i>-(m)mu</i>
<b>3rd person</b>	<i>ia</i>	<i>-i/'-wi</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>-(n)na</i>
<b>1st person plural/ 2nd person polite</b>	<i>idi'</i>	<i>-i'/'-ki'</i>	<i>ta-</i>	<i>-(t)ta'</i>
<b>1st person plural excl. (archaic)</b>	<i>ikəŋ</i>	<i>-kkəŋ</i>	<i>ki-</i>	<i>-mməŋ</i>

The enclitic set is used with subjects of intransitive verbs, and objects of transitive verbs. The proclitic set is with subjects of transitive verbs. The suffixed set is primarily used in possessive function.

### Aspects

The following are grammatical aspects of the language:<sup>[8]</sup>


Durative	Perfective	Conditional	Doubt	Emphasis	Place
<i>kaq</i>	<i>naq</i>	<i>paq</i>	<i>gaq</i>	<i>si</i>	<i>é</i>
<i>kiq/ko</i>	<i>niq/no</i>	<i>piq/po</i>	<i>giq/go</i>	<i>sa</i>	<i>tu</i>
<i>kiq</i>	<i>niq</i>	<i>piq</i>	<i>giq</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>ro</i>
<i>i</i>	<i>ni</i>	<i>pi</i>	<i>gi</i>	<i>mi</i>	
	<i>na</i>	<i>pa</i>	<i>ga</i>		

## Examples

A:    
*pura-no* *manre*

have + [portmonteau of perfective *na* (↗) + you] eat

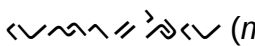
Have you already eaten?

B:   
*deq-pa*  
 not + [conditional (↘)]

Not yet.

Note that /q/ represent a glottal stop. Therefore it is not written.

Example of usage:

-  (*méloq-kaq cemmé*)

Lit.: want-I bathe  
 I want to take a bath

## Writing system

Buginese was traditionally written using the Lontara script, of the Brahmic family, which is also used for the Makassar language and the Mandar language. The name Lontara derives from the Malay word for the palmyra palm, *lontar*, the leaves of which are the traditional material for manuscripts in India, South East Asia and Indonesia. Today, however, it is often written using the Latin script.

## The Buginese Lontara

The Buginese lontara (locally known as *Aksara Ugi*) has a slightly different pronunciation from the other lontaras like the Makassarese. Like other Indic scripts, it also utilizes diacritics to distinguish the vowels [i], [u], [e], [o] and [ə] from the default inherent vowel /a/ (actually pronounced [ɔ]) implicitly represented in all base consonant letters (including the zero-consonant *a*).

But unlike most other Brahmic scripts of India, the Buginese script traditionally does not have any virama sign (or alternate half-form for vowel-less consonants, or subjoined form for non-initial consonants in clusters) to suppress the inherent vowel, so it is normally impossible to write consonant clusters (a few ones

were added later, derived from ligatures, to mark the prenasalization), geminated consonants or final consonants.

Older texts, however, usually did not use diacritics at all, and readers were expected to identify words from context and thus provide the correct pronunciation. As one might expect, this led to erroneous readings; for example, *bolo* could be misread as *bala* by new readers.

## Dialects and subdialects



The Bugis still distinguish themselves according to their major precolony states (Bone, Wajo, Soppeng and Sidenreng) or groups of petty states (around Pare-Pare, Sinjai and Suppa.) The languages of these areas, with their relatively minor differences from one another, have been largely recognized by linguists as constituting dialects: recent linguistic research has identified eleven of them, most comprising two or more sub-dialects.

The following Buginese dialects are listed in the *Ethnologue*: Bone (Palakka, Dua Boccoe, Mare), Pangkep (Pangkajene), Camba, Sidrap (Sidenreng, North Pinrang, Alitta), Pasangkayu (Ugi Riawa), Sinjai (Enna, Palattae, Bulukumba), Soppeng (Kessi), Wajo, Barru (Pare-Pare, Nepo, Soppeng Riaja, Tompo, Tanete), Sawitto (Pinrang), Luwu (Luwu, Bua Ponrang, Wara, Malangke-Ussu).<sup>[9]</sup>

# Numbers

The numbers are:<sup>[7]</sup>

1	ᠰᠡᠳᠳᠢ	seddi
2	ᠰᠡᠳᠠ	dua
3	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	təllu
4	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠭᠠ	əppa'
5	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	lima
6	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	ənnəṅ
7	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	pitū
8	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	aruá
9	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	asera'
10	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	səppulo
20	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	duappulo
30	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	təllupulo
40	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	patappulo
50	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	limappulo
60	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	ənnəppulona
70	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	pitupulo
80	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	aruá pulona
90	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	asera' pulona
100	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	siratu'
1000	ᠰᠡᠳᠠᠯᠤ	sisəbbu

10,000		silassa
100,000		sikatti

## Trivia

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- A Buginese poem is painted on a wall near the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden, Netherlands, as one of the wall poems in Leiden.<sup>[10]</sup>

## See also

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- Bugis of Sabah
- Bugis
- Pallawa

## References

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3. T. Ambo, T. Joearnani. "The Bugis-Makassarese: From Agrarian Farmers to Adventurous Seafarers". *Aboriginal, Australia, Marege', Bugis-Makassar, Transformation*. Universitas Hassanuddin: 2.
4. Abidin 1971, pp. 165–166.
5. Cummings 2007, p. 8.
6. Hall 1965, p. 358.
7. Sirk, Ülo (1983). *The Buginese language*. Moscow: Akademia Nauk.
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9. Buginese (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/Buginese>) at *Ethnologue* (22nd ed., 2019)
10. Khouw, Ida Indawati (15 July 2001), "Leiden, the Dutch city of poems" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20130425112224/http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2001/07/14/leiden-dutch-city-poems.html>), *Jakarta Post*, archived from the original (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2001/07/14/leiden-dutch-city-poems.html>) on 25 April 2013.

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## External links

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- [Buginese Soppeng dialect \(https://web.archive.org/web/20051018122546/http://language.psy.auckland.ac.nz/show\\_lsearch.php?id=00048\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20051018122546/http://language.psy.auckland.ac.nz/show_lsearch.php?id=00048)
  - [The I La Galigo Epic Cycle of South Celebes and Its Diffusion \(https://web.archive.org/web/20060317160256/http://e-publishing.library.cornell.edu/Dienst/UI/1.0/Summarize/seap.indo/1107130756\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20060317160256/http://e-publishing.library.cornell.edu/Dienst/UI/1.0/Summarize/seap.indo/1107130756)
  - [Languages of South Sulawesi \(https://web.archive.org/web/20071031035925/http://web.mac.com/ian.caldwell/iWeb/SulSel1/Languages.html\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20071031035925/http://web.mac.com/ian.caldwell/iWeb/SulSel1/Languages.html)
  - <http://unicode-table.com/en/sections/buginese/>
  - [Kaipuleohone's Robert Blust collection includes materials on Bugis.](#)
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